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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
LONDON, W. 1.

5 Grosvenor Square

20 May, 1952

Chief

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F. B. I. S.
2430 E Street, N.W.
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Alan:

A few days ago, Malcolm introduced me to Mr. Richard D'A. Marriott, who becomes Head of the Monitoring Service on 1 June. We had a short and pleasant talk which was confined to a few generalities. My first impression of the man was distinctly favorable. He is slender, of medium height, about 38, with an extremely alert-looking face, sharp gaze and direct but friendly manner which inspires confidence. Here are a few details of his career, which you may already know:

Joined BBC in 1936 and became a Home Service announcer;

Because of language proficiency (mainly French and German) became BBC Liaison Officer in 1939 and assisted in setting up army programs in European languages;

Became Head of the Monitoring Service in 1940 and was in charge at Evesham but resigned to join the RAF at the time of the move to Caversham;

Was a night fighter observer in Mosquitoes and Beaufighters and received decorations;

Had a post with UNESCO but later rejoined the BBC as Special Assistant to General Jacob on Foreign Affairs;

Has been Head of the Transcription Service for the last year.

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Marriott takes over at a particularly difficult time of financial and organizational problems in the Monitoring Service. It will be several weeks, I feel, before he will acquire sufficient knowledge to decide on plans and policies of particular concern to us, such as coverage, communications and the Baltic project. These are, as you are aware, now largely a matter of funds.

Malcolm suggested you might like to take a short trip here to talk things over with Marriott. Although I am sure you are looking forward to a meeting with him at an early date, he would I should think want a few weeks in which to study over all our arrangements before discussing them with you. Inasmuch as the Coordination Committee meets this year in Washington it is possible your meeting might be deferred until then. I shall be glad to make any suggestions to Marriott you may desire or see fit, and will in the meanwhile keep you posted of any developments of interest.

Sincerely,



RAW:esm

London Bureau

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